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RUEAMDA/MDA WASHINGTON DC  
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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 000589

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/01/2011

TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [EZ](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: CZECH COMMENTS ON U.S.-CZECH STRATEGIC COOPERATION

REF: CARNIE-QUANRUD E-MAIL DATED 10.01.2009

Classified By: Charge Mary Thompson-Jones for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(SBU) In response to delivery of USG non-paper on U.S. Ballistic Missile Defense in Europe, Czech MFA Political Director Ivo Sramek noted that he is pleased that we are having an ongoing dialogue and that we are all examining ways to advance U.S.-Czech strategic collaboration. He did not have substantive comments on the paper on October 1, although he noted that the MFA is collaborating with the MoD to flesh out the September 17 paper "Beyond the Missile Defense Review - The Way Forward in Strategic Cooperation." Sramek noted that this coming paper will add greater detail and specificity to the original paper the Czechs handed over. He also noted that he would be discussing it on October 2 with FM Kohout and that they hope to be able to provide it to us early next week. He noted that the approach in this coming paper is in keeping with the Kohout-S dialogue in New York on the UNGA margins, where the Secretary encouraged the Czechs to "think broadly" about cooperation and not simply to focus on military cooperation.

12. (C) Following this meeting, MFA Political Director Ivan Pocuch told emboff that within the MFA and MoD this paper was ready last week to hand over and that it was quite detailed and focused on the strategic relationship. This paper, however, was held up by FM Kohout who felt that it was much too narrowly focused. Pocuch and his Deputy, Petr Chalupecky, plan to press hard for this paper to be clearly prioritized and focused before it is handed over to us. He also stated that from his point of view it is most important that we know that the Czechs wish to be involved in a substantive way in this new security architecture, however it evolves.

13. (SBU) Separately Defense Attache Wally Scales met with MoD Director of Security Policy Ivan Dvorak and delivered this paper. According to Colonel Scales, Dvorak commented on the High Level Defense Group meeting to note that the first week of November was fine for the Czechs and that they hoped to see USG participation at the level of Under Secretary of Defense Flournoy.  
Thompson-Jones